

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

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R 281630Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SMITHSONIAN OBSERVATORY CAMBRIDGEMASS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4542

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 5861

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: SCI, OST

SUBJ: RED TIDE

REF: SMITHSONIAN OBSERVATORY CAMBRIDGEMASS TELEGRAM OF 25 JULY 1975

FOLLOWING ARE REPORTS RECEIVED ON RED TIDE FROM INSTITUTO DE LA
PATAGONIA:

A. NAME OF EVENT: RED TIDE BY GANYAULAX CATANELLA
DATE OF OCCURRENCE: DETECTED ON OCTOBER 22, 1972.
LOCATION OF EVENT: LAT. 5357 LONG. 7150 BELL BAY
NAME OF REPORTING SOURCE: HYDROLOGY SECTION, PATAGONIAN INSTITUTE
ADDRESS OF REPORTING SOURCE: CASILLA 102-D, PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE
PHONE NO. OF REPORTING SOURCE: 23039
DESCRIPTION OF EVENT: ON OCTOBER 22, 1972 THE MARITIME
AUTHORITY IN PUNTA ARENAS REPORTED THE DEATH OF THREE FISHERMEN
WHILE CATCHING MUSSELS IN BELL BAY. DEATH OCCURRED IN A LAPSE
OF 30 MINUTES TO 5 HOURS AFTER EATING FRESH MUSSELS. THE
AUTOPSY CARRIED OUT BY THE LEGAL MEDICAL INSTITUTE REVEALED
THAT DEATH WAS CAUSED BY INTOXICATION DUE TO CONSUMPTION OF
SHELLFISH.
THE ANALYSIS OF MUSSELS FOUND IN THE STOMACH SUGGESTED THE
EXISTENCE OF A RED TIDE WHICH WAS LATER CONFIRMED, ON NOVEMBER 11,
IN A SURVEY OF BELL BAY, IDENTIFYING THE DINOFLAGELLATES GONYAULAX
CATANELLA AS THE CAUSATIVE ORGANISM.
REPERCUSSIONS IN FISHERIES: USING AS COMPARISON BASIS THE AVERAGE
OF TOTAL CATCHES DURING THE PERIOD 1969-72 OF THE FIVE MORE
REPRESENTATIVE SPECIES, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT:

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IN 1973 THERE WAS A 58 PERCENT DECREASE IN TOTAL LANGINS.

LANDINGS OF MUSSELS (CHOLGAS) DECREASED 71 PERCENT.
CATCHES OF SMALL MUSSELS (CHORITOS) DECREASED 59 PERCENT.
CATCHES OF SILVERSIDE AND DRUM INCREASED 11 PERCENT AND
61 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY.

THERE WAS NO VARIATION IN THE CATCHES OF KING CRAB.
THE NOTABLE DECREASE IN CATCHES DURING 1973 WAS TO A GREAT EXTENT
THE RESULT OF THE DECREASE IN CATCHES OF MUSSELS(CHOLGAS). THIS
SPECIES TRADITIONALLY REPRESENTS AROUND 75 PERCENT OF TOTAL LANDINGS
OF MARINE PRODUCTS.

THE DECREASE IN CATCHES OF MUSSELS (CHOLGAS) AND SMALL MUSSELS
(CHORITOS) FOR CONSUMPTION AS WELL AS INDUSTRY HAS RESULTED IN A
REDUCTION OF INCOME FOR THE FISHERIES SECTOR OF APPROXIMATELY
US\$865,000.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES:

MUSSELS (CHOLGA): AULAMONYA ATER

SMALL MUSSEL (CHORITO): MYTILUS EDULIS CHILENSIS

DRUM: ELEGINOPS MACLOVINUS

SILVERSIDE: FAM. ATHERINIDAE

KING CRAB: LITHODES ANTACTIKA

EXISTING LITERATURE ON THE SUBJECT:

LEONARDO GUZMAN M., ITALO CAMPODONICO G. 1975 "MAREA ROJA
EN LA REGION DE MAGALLANES" PUBLISHED BY INSTITUTO DE LA
PATAGONIA, MONOGRAPH SERIES NO. 9.

B. NAME OF EVENT: RED TIDE BY AMPHIDOMA SP
DATE OF OCCURRENCE/ DECEMBER 1972-JANUARY 1973
LOCATAION OF EVENT: LAT. 5308 LONG. 7053 PUNTA ARENAS
NAME OF REPORTING SURCE: HYDROBIOLOGY SECTION, PATAGONIAN INSTITUTE
DESCRIPTION OF EVENT: THE BROMATOLOGICAL LABORATORY OF THE
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE IN PUNTAS ARENAS REPORTED THAT A SAMPLE
OF SMALL MUSSELS (CHORITOS) (MYTILUS EDULIS CHILENSIS) COLLECTED
ON JANUARY 23, 46 KMS. FROM PUNTA ARENAS PRESENTED A TOXICITY OF
APPROXIMATELY 640 U.R. IN 100 GRAMS OF SHELL FISH. SAMPLES
COLLECTED IN THE AREA REVEALED THE PRESENCE OF THE DINOFLAGELLATA
AMPHIDOMA SP IN RELATIVELY HIGH CONCENTRATION (MAX. CONC.670,000
CEL."1), WHICH WAS ALSO ALMOST THE ONLY COMPONENT FOUND IN THE
STOMACH OF SMALL MUSSEL (CHORITOS. THIS RED TIDE COINCIDED
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WITH A CASE OF HUMAN INTOXICATION ATTRIBUTED TO THE CONSUMPTION
OF SMALL MUSSELS (CHORITOS), BUT FROM INFORMATION OBTAINED IT WAS
NOT POSSIBLE TO AFFIRM THAT AMPHIDOMA SP WAS THE SOURCE OF THE TOXINE.
IN THE AREA 38-53 KMS. SOUTH OF THE CITY OF PUNTA ARENAS
WHERE THIS RED TIDE WAS LOCATED, THERE IS NO IMPORTANT FISHING
ACTIVITY AND THIS RED TIDE, THEREFORE, DID NOT HAVE GREAT
REPERCUSSION.

EXISTING LITERATURE ON THE SUBJECT: ITALO CAMPODONICO G. AND
LEONARDO GUZMAN, 1974 "MAREA ROJA PRODUCIDA POR AMPHIDOMA SP
EN EL ESTRECHO DE MAGALLANES", PATAGONIAN INSTITUTE, PUNTA ARENAS,
CHILE VOL V (1-3).
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